

Let Us Pod

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'Vocations' with Father Robert King

Father Robert King

Father Robert King was ordained priest on 23 July 1999 in home town of Bath at the age of 26. In 2005 he was asked to be the Clifton Diocese Vocations Director. Following a successful poster and promotions campaign Clifton Diocese has seen an increase in both potential and successful applicants for admittance to the seminary. Father Robert is the Catholic Chaplain to the University of Bristol. As well as his pastoral and liturgical responsibilities for staff and students through the popular University Catholic Chaplaincy he is involved in life of Clifton Cathedral. The Cathedral parish is one of the largest in the diocese and has just one full time priest. He helps with the sacramental life by regularly presiding at the Eucharist, hearing confessions, and with funerals, baptism, marriage preparation and sick calls.

Full text of podcast

Realising the gap between where I am now and where I would like to be at some point in the future can be a daunting experience. My happiness is at stake. Life decisions lead to commitment. Doesn't commitment limit my options, my possibilities? Yet doesn't waiting mean that life passes me by. Where is true happiness to be found?

Every baptised person is called into the fullness of life. To embrace that life we need to use our gifts and talents to the best of our abilities. Discerning how to do that is, of course, a challenge. In my journey the turning point was the recognition of God's love in my life and the acceptance of his call for me to be generous in my love. This led me on the path to ordained ministry as a priest at the service of the Church.

As vocations director I have the particular privilege of helping men discern a vocation to ordained life as a priest. The priest's vocation is a challenging one: he must be a prophetic character in a secular world; he must be prepared to give of himself and guide those under his care. The role of a priest must be to ensure that Christ is continually present to His church. As daunting as this task sounds, God's grace is rich. God calls ordinary men to the priesthood to become extraordinarily heroic in their lives.

In the Clifton Diocese we have a Priestly Vocations Group who meet monthly. Those considering the call of Christ come together to discuss their hopes and fears, to pray together before the Blessed Sacrament, for the celebration of Mass and to socialise together.

Your calling? Don't ignore the voice of Christ. Have courage and explore your options in prayer. Likewise don't be afraid to let Christ speak through you. Be his instrument in bringing others and yourself to the fullness of life. As Christ became one like us he works and speaks through us.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus Begins his public ministry by announcing that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him to proclaim the Kingdom of God. The same spirit is given to us that the proclamation of the Kingdom might continue in every age.

Luke 4: 16-21

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Prayer is an essential element of the Christian life and the key to discerning God's will. I invite you to make Pope Benedict's prayer for the 43rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations your own.

O Father, raise up among Christians
numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood,
to keep the faith alive
and guard the gracious memory of your Son Jesus
through the preaching of his word
and the administration of the Sacraments,
with which you continually renew your faithful.
Give us holy ministers of your altar,
who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist,
the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ
for the redemption of the world.
Call ministers of your mercy,
who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation,
spread the joy of your forgiveness.
Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy
numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son
and, docile to His teachings,
may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood
and to the consecrated life.
Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons,
consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ,
so that they may faithfully fulfil their mission
at the service of the Gospel.
This we pray You through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

Useful contact

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